

# XVIIIth ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES (ECCAS)

## FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Libreville, Gabonese Republic, November 27, 2020



1. At the invitation of **His Excellency Mr. Ali BONGO ONDIMBA** , President of the Gabonese Republic, Head of State, Current President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) , was held in Libreville, on November 27, 2020, the XVIII<sup>Ordinary</sup> Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS.
2. Took part:
3. **His Excellency Mr. Ali BONGO ONDIMBA** , President of the Gabonese Republic, current President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS;
4. **The Marshal of Chad, IDRISSE DEBY ITNO**, President of the Republic;
5. **His Excellency Mr. Denis SASSOU-N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo;
6. **His Excellency Faustin Archange TOUADERA** , President of the Central African Republic;
7. **His Excellency Mr. João MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO**, President of the Republic of Angola;
8. **His Excellency Mr. Évariste NDAYISHIMIYE** , President of the Republic of Burundi;
9. **Mr. Jorge BOM JESUS** , Prime Minister, representing **His Excellency Mr. Evaristo do Espírito SANTO CARVALHO** , President of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe;

10. **Her Excellency Madame Marie TUMBA NZEZA**, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing **His Excellency TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO** , President of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
11. **His Excellency Mr. Lejeune MBELLA MBELLA**, Minister of External Relations, representing **His Excellency Mr. Paul BIYA** , President of the Republic of Cameroon;
12. **Mr. GAUDENCIO MOHABA MESSU** , President of the Chamber of Deputies, representing **His Excellency Mr. TEODORO OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO**, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;
13. **Ambassador Gilberto Da Piedade VERISSIMO** , President of the ECCAS Commission.
14. The following special guests also took part in the solemn opening ceremony of the XVIIIth Ordinary Session of the Conference:
15. **Mr. François LOUNCENY FALL** , Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA);
16. **Mrs. Rosário Bento PAIS** , Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the European Union to the Gabonese Republic, the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and ECCAS.
17. The solemn opening ceremony, held at the Presidency of the Gabonese Republic, was chaired by **His Excellency Mr. Ali BONGO ONDIMBA** , President of the Gabonese Republic, Current President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS , and marked by the speech of the President of the ECCAS Commission and the speech of the President in Office of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS.
18. After adoption of its agenda, the Conference examined the items listed therein and decided as follows:
19. **OF THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**
20. The Conference followed the presentation of the Report of the Council of Ministers and took note of it.

## **II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS**

- **Regarding the Commission's activity report**
- The Conference commended the Commission for the actions taken since it took office. It authorized the carrying out of an audit of the accounts of the Community by an independent firm in order to clarify the situation of debts and claims prior to the establishment of the Commission.
  - **Concerning the assessed contributions of member states**
  - The Conference commended Member States which had paid 40% of their arrears of contributions and urged Member States, which had not yet done so, to pay all their arrears in accordance with Decision No. 005/CEEAC/CCEG/IXE/20 in order to provide the Community with the necessary means to achieve its objectives.
  - The Conference instructed the Commission to carry out a reflection on the evolution of the key for the distribution of the contributions of the Member States to the community budget with regard to the current economic and social context of the States.
    - **Regarding the Indicative Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and the 2021 Community Priority Action Plan**
- The Assembly commended the Commission for having developed an indicative medium-term strategic plan for the period 2021–2025 and a priority action plan for

2021. It instructed the Commission to develop a regional strategy on border governance aligned on the continental strategy and provide leadership for its implementation.

- The Authority instructed the Commission to speed up the implementation of the decisions taken on the operationalization of the Community Free Trade Area while pursuing the establishment of the Community Customs Union.
  - **Regarding the rationalization of Regional Economic Communities in Central Africa**
- The Conference took note of the progress of work relating to the harmonization of trade integration instruments and the rapprochement of the institutional frameworks of ECCAS and CEMAC.
- The Conference congratulated **His Excellency Mr. Paul BIYA**, President of the Republic of Cameroon, Head of State, President dedicated to the rationalization of Regional Economic Communities in Central Africa, for the significant progress made in the implementation of this process.
  - **Concerning the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREP)**
- The Conference adopted the rules of procedure of the COREP and instructed the Council of Ministers and the Commission to accelerate the process of its operationalization.
  - **Regarding Decisions**
- The Conference adopted, on the proposal of the Council of Ministers, the following Decisions:
  - Decision No. 013/CEEAC/CCEG/XVIII/20 on the adoption of the medium-term indicative strategic plan (2021-2025) of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
  - Decision No. 00014/ECCAS/CCEG/XVIII/20 adopting the priority action plan for the year 2021 of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
  - Decision No. 015 /CEEAC/CCEG/XVIII/20 approving the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREP) of the Economic Community of Central African States.
  - **Regarding the Declaration on the political and security situation in the Central African Republic**
- The Conference adopted the Declaration of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS on the political and security situation in the Central African Republic. It reaffirmed its unreserved support for the Government and people of the Central African Republic within the framework of the electoral process under way in that Member State. To this end, she called on all Central African stakeholders to favor the spirit of dialogue and the quest for consensus and urged all the partners of the Central African Republic to show more commitment with a view to a successful outcome of the electoral process. .
- The Conference congratulated and encouraged the Member States of the Community, contributors of troops to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and condemned in the strongest terms the attacks perpetrated against the personnel of the Mission whose she wishes to salute bravery.
- The Conference decided to appoint a mediator in the Central African crisis;
- The Conference decided on the deployment, by the ECCAS Commission, of an electoral observation mission consistent with the presidential and legislative elections of December 27, 2020.

### **III. TRANSFER OF POWERS**

- The Conference expressed its gratitude to **His Excellency Mr. Ali BONGO ONDIMBA** , President of the Gabonese Republic, Head of State, Current Chairman of ECCAS, for his constant leadership and commitment to regional integration in Central Africa as well as only for the achievements made during his tenure.
- The Conference welcomes the passing of witnesses between the outgoing President-in-Office and the new President-in-Office, His Excellency Mr. **Denis SASSOUNGUSSO** , President of the Republic of Congo.
- **OF THE VOTE OF THANKS**
- The Conference addressed a vote of thanks to the President of the Republic and to the Government of the Gabonese Republic.
- **OF THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**
- The Conference decided to hold its XIX <sup>Ordinary</sup> Session in May 2021 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

**Done in Libreville, November 27, 2020**